

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 011050  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY S/MS:MDSHULMAN:VB

APPROVED BY S/S:PTARNOFF

-----018508 151248Z /45

O 151229Z JAN 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 011050

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1-3

TAGS: TSPA, SENV

SUBJECT: REENTRY OF COSMOS 954

1. IN RESPONSE TO AN EARLIER QUERY HERE, THE FOLLOWING  
SOVIET RESPONSE WAS PROVIDED TODAY ON THE REENTRY INTO THE  
ATMOSPHERE OF SOVIET EARTH SATELLITE COSMOS 954.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE SOVIET EARTH SATELLITE "COSMOS"-954,  
WHICH WAS MENTIONED IN THE PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATION, WAS  
LAUNCHED ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1977, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROGRAM  
FOR THE RESEARCH AND USE OF OUTER SPACE.

THE SATELLITE HAS A SMALL NUCLEAR PLANT FOR SUPPLYING POWER  
TO THE SYSTEMS ON BOARD. THIS PLANT IS EXPLOSIVE-PROOF.

DURING THE FLIGHT OF THIS SATELLITE ON JANUARY 6, 1978, WHEN  
IT WAS OUTSIDE OUR RADIO RANGE, DUE TO UNESTABLISHED YET  
CAUSES, IT SUDDENLY DEPRESSURIZED AND THIS LED TO THE BREAK-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 011050

DOWN OF THE SYSTEMS ABOARD THE SATELLITE.

AS A RESULT THE SATELLITE STARTED TO DESCEND IN A MODE WHICH  
WAS NOT PROGRAMMED.

ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY CALCULATIONS THE SATELLITE WILL

ENTER THE DENSER LAYERS OF THE ATMOSPHERE APPROXIMATELY .  
ON JANUARY 24. WE ARE CONSTANTLY MONITORING THE TIME AND  
PLACE WHERE THE SATELLITE WILL ENTER THE DENSER LAYERS OF  
THE ATMOSPHERE, AND LATER ON, THE PROBABLE REGION WHERE THE  
SATELLITE'S PIECES WILL REACH THE EARTH IF THE SATELLITE  
DOES NOT BURN OUT COMPLETELY IN THE ATMOSPHERE.

IN CASE IT IS ESTABLISHED THAT SOME PARTS OF THE SATELLITE  
SHOULD REACH THE TERRITORIES OUTSIDE THE SOVIET UNION,  
THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES OR OTHER COUNTRIES, THEN THE  
SOVIET UNION WILL CERTAINLY ACT IN STRICT CONFORMITY WITH  
ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS PROVIDED FOR SUCH CASES.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT IN SUCH A CASE WE WILL ENTER  
INTO FURTHER CONTACTS WITH THE US SIDE. END OF TEXT.

3. PENDING FURTHER CONSIDERATION, THIS MATTER WILL BE  
HELD VERY CLOSELY. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 011050  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY S/S: PTARNOFF

APPROVED BY MR TARNOFF

-----022736 161606Z /42

O 161600Z JAN 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 011050

NODIS

CHEROKEE EYES ONLY FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 11050 ACTION MOSCOW JAN 15.

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 011050

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1-3

TAGS: TSPA, SENV

SUBJECT: REENTRY OF COSMOS 954

1. IN RESPONSE TO AN EARLIER QUERY HERE, THE FOLLOWING SOVIET RESPONSE WAS PROVIDED TODAY ON THE REENTRY INTO THE ATMOSPHERE OF SOVIET EARTH SATELLITE COSMOS 954.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE SOVIET EARTH SATELLITE "COSMOS"-954, WHICH WAS MENTIONED IN THE PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATION, WAS LAUNCHED ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1977, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROGRAM  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 011050

FOR THE RESEARCH AND USE OF OUTER SPACE.

THE SATELLITE HAS A SMALL NUCLEAR PLANT FOR SUPPLYING POWER TO THE SYSTEMS ON BOARD. THIS PLANT IS EXPLOSIVE-PROOF.

DURING THE FLIGHT OF THIS SATELLITE ON JANUARY 6, 1978, WHEN IT WAS OUTSIDE OUR RADIO RANGE, DUE TO UNESTABLISHED YET CAUSES, IT SUDDENLY DEPRESSURIZED AND THIS LED TO THE BREAK-DOWN OF THE SYSTEMS ABOARD THE SATELLITE.

AS A RESULT THE SATELLITE STARTED TO DESCEND IN A MODE WHICH WAS NOT PROGRAMMED.

ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY CALCULATIONS THE SATELLITE WILL

ENTER THE DENSER LAYERS OF THE ATMOSPHERE APPROXIMATELY ON JANUARY 24. WE ARE CONSTANTLY MONITORING THE TIME AND PLACE WHERE THE SATELLITE WILL ENTER THE DENSER LAYERS OF THE ATMOSPHERE, AND LATER ON, THE PROBABLE REGION WHERE THE SATELLITE'S PIECES WILL REACH THE EARTH IF THE SATELLITE DOES NOT BURN OUT COMPLETELY IN THE ATMOSPHERE.

IN CASE IT IS ESTABLISHED THAT SOME PARTS OF THE SATELLITE SHOULD REACH THE TERRITORIES OUTSIDE THE SOVIET UNION, THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES OR OTHER COUNTRIES, THEN THE SOVIET UNION WILL CERTAINLY ACT IN STRICT CONFORMITY WITH ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS PROVIDED FOR SUCH CASES.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT IN SUCH A CASE WE WILL ENTER INTO FURTHER CONTACTS WITH THE US SIDE. END OF TEXT.

3. PENDING FURTHER CONSIDERATION, THIS MATTER WILL BE HELD VERY CLOSELY. VANCE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 011050

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPACE PROGRAMS, SATELLITES, COSMOS 954, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 01/15/78, CT-C  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE011050  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MDSHULMAN:VB  
**Enclosure:** DC IS ALSO X3  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** P840148-1459  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780161/aaaabzxc.tel  
**Line Count:** 174  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 5f9f63e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3772682  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REENTRY OF COSMOS 954  
**TAGS:** TSPA, SENV, UR  
**To:** MOSCOW  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5f9f63e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014